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## **BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

The Bureau of Juvenile Justice has incorporated the principles of balanced and restorative justice (BARJ) into the delivery of service to delinquent youth. BARJ is based on the concept that crime is an act against the victim and the community.

### **BARJ Principles**

The following are the principles of BARJ:

- Crime is injury.
- Crime hurts individual victims, communities and juvenile offenders and creates an obligation to make things right.
- All parties should be a part of the response to the crime, including the victim if he or she wishes, the community, and the juvenile offender.
- Accountability for the juvenile offender means accepting responsibility and acting to repair the harm done.
- The community is responsible for the well-being of all its members, including both victim and offender.
- All human beings have dignity and worth.
- Restoration - repairing the harm and rebuilding relationships in the community - is the primary goal of restorative juvenile justice.
- Crime control cannot be achieved without active involvement of the community.
- The juvenile justice process is respectful of age, abilities, sexual orientation, family status, diverse cultures and backgrounds and all are given equal protection and due process.

### **BARJ Philosophy Goals**

The following are the goals of the BARJ philosophy:

- Protect the community from harm by youthful offenders.
- Divert youth from the juvenile justice system at point of entry.
- Provide assurance of safety for all youth in agency care/supervision
- Increase offender competencies.
- Reduce escalation from the juvenile justice system to the adult criminal justice system.
- Assist youth in becoming contributing members of society.
- Provide the opportunity for the victim, community and offender to actively participate in the treatment process.
- Reduce recidivism within the juvenile justice system.
- Reunite youth with family as quickly as is safely possible.